Ku Klux Klan - 1918

THE JUDGE APOLOGIZES.

One division of the Circuit Court in and for Duval County, Fla. is presided over by Judge Daniel A. Simmons. Recently in charging the grand jury, the Judge, among other things that he said, made the following remarks anent the Ku Klux Klan:

> At one time it was supposed necessary in this Southland of ours to deal with a certain condition by a form of mob violence, known as the Ku Klux Klan, and the Ku Klux Klan very promptly and very efficiently dealt with the question of carpet bag rule and Negro domination in the South. But, like all mob violence, it overflowed its bounds; it broke its tether and ran away, and became the synonym of, and the stamping ground for all kinds of lawlessness, acts of bandits, rowdyism, murder, arson and rapine, which it took years and years to stamp out.

We do not know just why the Judge made these remarks to the grand jury of Duval County, but we are given to understand that they were a sort of obiter dicta called forth by the proposal on the part of some citizens of Jacksonville that a group dressed to represent the Ku Klux Klan be included in the big parade which launched the Third Liberty Loan drive in that city. At any rate, the remarks were entirely in place. They are remarks of a kind that ought to be made by judges to grand juries and petit juries in every county and every court, not only in the South, but all over the country. It is a time when judges everywhere should feel it a part of their duties to say to everybody connected with our courts of justice something about the growing evil of mob violence and lawlessness.

However the grand jury may have taken Judge Simmons' remarks, certain citizens of Jacksonville felt that he had gone too far; that what he said was a reflection on the South and upon a noble organization. The citizens who felt this way have been considerable in numbers or of considerable influence; for the Judge deemed it wise to enter an explanation. On the next day he again addressed the grand jury on the Ku Klux Klan. After stating why he was going back to the subject, he said:

> As you know, I spoke purely extemporaneously; I used no notes of any kind. I didn't note at the time I began talking to you gentlemen that I would even refer to the Ku Klux Klan, but I did not intend to say, and I am sure you did not understand me to say that the Ku Klux Klan, which I said was organized for the purpose of freeing the South of Negro domination and carpet bag rule and which did free the South of Negro domination and carpet bag rule, was a bunch of rowdies and bandits from the beginning. Such was not the case. Every unbiased student of history knows that such was not the case, and that the real manhood of the South, the real Anglo-Saxon people of the United States, was organized into that noble clan to free our beloved Southland of the black pall that had settled down upon it as a result of the misguided judgment of our friends of the North.

Explanations of this sort seldom make things any better. What udge Simmons had said was said. It was in plain, direct and perectly clear language. In his explanation he rings in "Anglo-Saxon' nd "beloved Southland" and "Negro domination," but all of that as very little bearing on his first statement, which was a condemnaion of mob violence, no matter how "laudable" the object or how incere the motives of the perpetrators. A statement highly becoming a judge. The only force the explanation could have would be as an apology.

Here we have an incident which illustrates how difficult it is o have anything like a free discussion of opinion in the South; and t is this, more than anything else, that keeps the South backward. It takes a mighty brave man in the South to express an opinion which runs counter to "general Southern opinion," and nine times out of ten he has to take it back or camouflage it over so that it has no resemblance to its original sense. The intellectual and moral growth of a community can continue only through men having the right and privilege to fight for their ideas in the arena of public opinion. And to fight for them and hold to them until they are vanquished; and vanquished not by the club of conformity, but by the greater truth of other ideas. Growth of this kind is absolutely precluded in the greater portion of the South.

We wish there were more men in the South like Judge Simmons, brave enough to make a statement of truth, even if it does run counter to general opinion; and we wish there were more of them enough braver to stand by such a statement after making it, and who would neither modify it or take it back or apologize for it.

Race Man Is Whipped by Ku Klux Klan in South

Cleveland Advocate 6-29-18

MOBILE, Ala., June 21.—Although he showed no outward signs of having been whipped by the Ku Klux Klan on last Saturday night, reliable reports have been received that Rafe Clemmons, alleged Negro labor agitator, taken from the police patrol, was given a severe lashing by the twenty-five masked men. Cries were heard on Saturday night from the direction of the Holt road in Plateau.

The real reason for Clemmons being ordered out of the city by the Ku Klux is said to have been owing to a recent act in calling off Negro members of a longshoremen's union from unloading Mallory steamers that contained perishable goods. The Negroes wanted fifty cents an hour, and Clemmons, it is said, made them quit work. One steamer, according to report, went away from here to load her cargo elsewhere.

An official of the Mallory line stated Monday afternoon that two steamers had been badly delayed by the action of Negro stevedores who were under the domination of Clemmons.

R. L. Shamberger, a Negro barber shop proprietor, vouched for by J. W. Clover, of Plateau, says that Clemmons was at his barber shop in Plateau, at 11:45 o'clock on Saturday night and that he was headed out on the Southern Railway in the direction of Mount Vernon. Another report is that Clemmons has gone to New Orleans.

Clemmons asked Shamberger to tell Will Childs, a Negro boom man, to have one of the boys meet him at the Southern crossing when the last car came out from the city. He did not appear excited and showed no signs of having been roughly handled, Shamberger said.

Chief of Police P. J. O'Shaughnessy stated Sunday night that he had been reliably informed that Clemmons was seen in Plateau on Saturday about midnight, and that several Negroes had called on him. The police chief said Clemmons was able to travel.

Clemmons was taken from the police patrol Saturday night at 9:45 o'clock by a number of men wearing the uniform of the Ku-Klux Clan at Claiborne and St. Anthony streets. He was under arrest at the time in connection with the alleged shipping of liquor into Mobile.

An automobile bearing Clemmons and the men was last seen going west on St. Anthony street.

Clemmons was arrested at his barber shop, at 306 Davis avenue, and had proceeded about three blocks when an automobile bearing five or six masked men blocked the progress of the police patrol, occupied at that time by Detectives Curtin and Desmond, Officer George Smith and driven by Chauffeur S. M. Rabby. The officers say that Clemmons was lifted bodily outside of the side of the car and into the automobile. The officers state that the masked men were all armed and made no sounds and that Clemmons had nothing to say. Monroe Long, 41, who was arrested at the same time with Clemmons, was unmolested.

Justice of the Peace C. Quartemus, of Theodore, Ala., told the News-Item he saw Rafe Clemmons at the L. & N. station at that place Sunday morning at 7 o'clock, just before the arrival of the southbound L. & N. local train for New Orleans.

"I have known Clemmons for twenty-five years or more, and when I saw him at the station I wondered what he was doing there. It was not until I saw the morning paper that I learned."

It became known positively Monday afternoon that Rafe Clemmons was in New Orleans. He boarded the southbound L. & N. train shortly after 7 o'clock Sunday morning at Theodore.

KU-KLUX TAKE NEGRO LEADER FROM POLICE

Public Ledger 6-25-18

(Special to The Advertiser)

MOBILE, ALA., June 24—Rafe Clemmons, a well known negro labor leader as he is called in organized labor circles was taken from the police patrol by a Klu Klux clan Saturday night at 10:45 o'clock and up to noon today, had not been located by either the police or sheriff's departments. Clemmons was arrested between 9 and 10 o'clock Saturday night at his barber shop in Davis avenue, by Detectives Desmond and Curtin and Detail officer George Smith, and was being taken along with another negro to the police station. At Claiborne and St. Anthony streets, where three streets form a point the patrol wagon ran into a pocket of autos in which were twenty-five or more Ku Klux, their heads covered with caps. The patrol wagon was ordered stopped, the masked men displaying guns and pistols. Clemmons was seized by two of the masked men and pulled from the patrol wagon and hustled into an auto. The patrol driver was told to drive on, which he did as soon as the autos had driven away.

As soon as possible information was communicated to headquarters by the detectives of the taking of Clemons. At once the police chief sent the night lieutenant and detectives in the police flivver in search of the Ku Klux, and getting in touch with the sheriff's office the sheriff sent a bunch officers on the same mission. The officers returned shortly after midnight after having scoured the country in all three directions west, north and south of the city.

It had been known for several days that Clemmons, who is the recognized ring leader of the negro Longshoremen of whom there more than 1,000 in the local organization and whom he had under his thumb, was preparing to or had already organized the negro cooks and was working on the washerwomen with the view of having them fix exorbitant prices for their services.

Macon Ku Klux and Other Secret Reformers

Former Mayor Bridges Smith in The Macon Telegraph.

Mention of the possibility of reviving the ku klux in order to make the idle go to work, and those who work two or three days in the week and loaf the balance, recalls the time when the old klan of that name were in existence in Macon, and when they brought order out of chaos, as it were, and also some other bodies of men of a secret and mysterious character.

As has been stated, the ku klux was made up of the best and most determined men of the community, not organized for fun or political reasons, but for the common good. They meant business from the word go, and never told a man to halt but the one time. When they sent a warning to some fellow who was undesirable as a citizen, he soon realized that the warning was no idle threat.

Only in this way could they have got rid of a number of persons of unlawful inclinations and habits so effectually as they did. They had things going their way. Nobody knew who they were, and were it possible to find out, nobody would dare tell. A little billet doux embellished by a skull and crossbones struck terror to the evil doer, and he was sobered and made over.

To this day the membership is not known, so well was their transactions kept under cover. Their first meeting place was on the third floor of Washington block, and at stated intervals men could be seen going into the building, but no one could swear they were going to the second or third floor, or that they were not going into some of the rooms occupied by lawyers and other professional men.

As a man joined and took the oath, which was about as binding and as solemn as ever bound men together, he was unable to swear afterward that he knew a single man in the room, except the man who administered the oath, whose voice he might have known. The members were so attired that he wouldn't have known his own brother.

He was allowed to bring one man to become a member, but he must know that man through and through, know that he was true blue, that he possessed a good character, and that he had sand in his craw. This was no place for the slacker, or those who were gun-shy. Only those who wanted this country right and according to Hoyle need apply.

A Political Organization.

This was the ku klux. Years after Macon had a political organization, almost as surely oath-bound and as mysterious of movement, but had in view only to keep the undesirables out of office, the undesirables in this sense being "the other side." This society came direct from New York, and was said to be a sort of Tammany auxiliary. Any how, it was introduced by a Macon man who lived in New York one time.

It was known to the public as the "Ero Populi," and that is about all the general public could learn of it. They first met in the ruins of the old ice factory on the river, near the foot of First street, but during one of their initiations, which was a cross between a rough riders' circus and being run over by a steam road roller, the novitiate fell in the well that used to supply the ice factory with water and broke his arm.

Instead of filling up the well they moved the meeting point to the redoubt, or fort, one of a chain of defenses thrown up to protect the city against the coming of Sherman and his crowd, which was later incorporated within Riverside cemetery, and which is still there. At that time it was out of the city, and too far away for the noise attending initiations to be disturbing to people in the vicinity.

They say that only those suspected of being on the right side of city politics were solicited to become members, and after passing through, or rather surviving the initiation ceremonies, he could not have voted any but the right ticket. They tell me that when a member carried a new man out there in that lonely place in the dark, and at a signal the members arose all at once and suddenly in their white robes, with holes in them for eyes, it was enough to make the goose bumps break out.

It was a kind of revised edition of the ku klux so far as the opening scene was concerned. What followed was enough to make a man lay off from work the next day to cool off, anoint his entire body with some soothing preparation like vaseline, examine his bones and rest up. It was the original rough house. If they didn't scare him out a year's growth they crippled him for a week. If he was game he went back to see some other fellow go through the mill, but after that oath he always voted right, whether he went back or not.

They had their own way of notifying the members when a meeting was to be held. On doorways, on the walls of stairways, on telephone posts or lamp posts, and in public places little circles or squares of paper were stuck, these bearing the words Ero Populi, with some cabalistic signs understood by the members only.

Short Lived.

Of course it was short-lived, as such things generally are, but as long as it lasted it elected the men the members wanted by big majorities. The fights were between the "outs" and the "ins," and the ins had the unqualified support of the Ero and always won, to the intense chagrin of the outs, who couldn't bore into the organization, not even with the augur of money.

Before the war there was an organization whose object was fun and nothing else, known as the "Sons of Malta." They met in the building on Second street, near Mulberry, now occupied as a printing office. The devilish men of the city made up its membership, so they tell me. The initiation was a scream. Years after it went to pieces by the war coming on, the paraphernalia used was found where it had been stored in a lawyer's office.

What appeared to be the most horrible instruments of torture, and what had probably frightened many a poor candidate for membership, were absolutely harmless. One, for instance, was what was called the "Iron Maiden," a terrible relic from the Spanish Inquisition, so they said. It had the appearance of being a barrel sawed longitudinally, and the two halves hinged.

Into these halves sharpened iron spikes had been driven. It was intended that the victim should be made to stand while the two halves were closed on him, thus piercing his body. The agony of such a procedure can be readily imagined. It required a brave man to even think of allowing himself to be so tortured. But the victim was always saved in the nick of time.

All of these mysterious organizations have passed out of existence. While they lasted, however, they furnished excuses for men to remain out late at night on important business, and gave them something to think about all next day other than business cares. It would probably be difficult to find a man who will admit that he belonged to any of them.

Not that any harm could come to him, for they are now buried beyond resurrection, and the oath they took was no longer binding after the demise of the organization, but the memory of its solemnity, its terrible earnestness, and the weird surroundings and circumstances at the time it was taken, somehow creeps up out of the past as if holding a warning finger not to tell.

Ku Klux Klan Again Busy In South, Paying Attention To Slackers

(International News Service.)

Memphis, Tenn., June 15—The Ku Klux Klan is growing. It promises to assume the place it held right after the civil war. No other agency holds such terror for evildoers as does the hooded Klan.

Reports from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida indicate that the Klan is getting together in hundreds of communities.

Quietly and silently it works It is not recognized as an organization. It has no visible head. Orders come from out of the air. Punishment is swift and sure.

Death is the extreme penalty, yet seldom administered. Tar and feathers and the lash are most commonly used.

One of the most striking results growing out of the Klan is found among Negro laborers. A Negro who will not work is a slacker. He is given a warning by the Ku Klux Klan. A second warning is never given. Most often it is not necessary. The offender has gone to work voluntarily or has tasted the bite of the whip and the smart of the salt rubbed into his wounds and has left for other parts.

Pro-Germans and other enemies of the United States are also under the eye of the Klan. In numerous towns the Klan, in cowl and mounted, has passed silently through the streets, a warning to all slackers.

Negro Labor Leader Probably Took Orders

MOBILE, Ala., June 17.—R. L. Shamberger, a negro barber shop operator, in Plateau told the News-Item Monday that Rafe Clemmons, negro labor leader and alleged agitator, was at his barber shop fifteen minutes before midnight Saturday night and that he was last seen at the Southern Railway crosisng. The general belief is that the band of masked men who took Clemmons out of the police patrol warned him to leave Mobile county and he has

Ku Klux Klan - 1918

Whites Anticipate Racial Troubles After the War

CHARTERED AT NASHVILLE

12-21-18

(By Continental Press)

Chattanooga, Tenn., Dec. 20.—Prominent white men of this city, as well as political leaders throughout the South, are seeking to re-establish the spirit of the Ku Klux Klan. This organization, known as the Columbian Union, carrying with it the label of a secret order, chartered in Nashville, having as its moving spirit and organizer Arthur Mills (white), who signs himself "Majestic Viceroy," claims as its purpose the re-establishing of "white supremacy" throughout the South.

In the Chattanooga Times, Dec. 12, the story of the birth of this organization is told, in which it said that the purposes of the order are mysteriously surrounded with the traditions of the past and are among the most unusual secret organizations yet attempted. And that the organizers anticipate class or racial troubles, following the demobilization of "Negro" soldiers on their return home from the field of battle. The literature of the organization indicates, and Mr. Mills, its organizer, specifically sets forth that this organization is the outgrowth of a desire to perpetuate the "Ku Klux Klan" of other days.

Prominent Men in Order

As to just how this lodge will secure its protection, if it is to carry out, as it states, the former traditions of the Ku Klux Klan, in which history records pillage, murder, brutality, and the most inhuman savagery executed in a civilized community, is said to be a matter entirely secret with the members who have been initiated in the order. It is, however, notably significant that the name of such men as Hon. Robert T. Quarles (white), said to be a prominent state official; Frank Gilreath (white), an official of the Press Syndicate, Atlanta, Ga.; Hon. Thos. C. Rye, governor of the great state of Tennessee, and Gov.-Elect A. H. Roberts appear as charter members of this organization.

Strikingly singular, this paragraph appears in the by-laws of the order: "The order is open only to such white American citizens as confess their sins direct to God, and who observe such religious holidays and teachings as are laid down in the New Testament." Strange as it may appear, these gentlemen composing the organization assume to claim divine aid in the carrying out of their intent. In another paragraph allegiance to the United States is also sworn, which does not seem compatible with the spirit of the Ku Klux Klan.

Seek White Supremacy

It is claimed that Mr. Mills is very much interested in getting the government in the hands of the white race, thereby making possible white supremacy. This argument falls of its own weight, especially in view of the fact that for the past quarter of a century our people in the South have been stripped of every vestige of political opportunity, and their voice in the government has been null and void. The birth of this organization has been viewed by some as having been born for the purpose of further depriving our people of political advancement. It is said that the real purpose of this organization was not born because of any fear of the hindrance of white supremacy, but rather for the purpose of stifling the very soul and conscience of the men who have gone forth in the fields of France and offered their lives for the establishing of a world democracy. It is feared by the promoters of the Ku Klux Klan that on the return of these soldiers who, having tasted liberty and freedom, will ask for a more generous portion from the hands of their own government than that heretofore meted out to them.

Order Warrants Investigation

Mr. Mills may yet find that this organization, which he is endeavoring so earnestly to put into operation, having as its aim and object the suppression of the black man, may be called upon to do a greater work in the suppression of the spirit of bolshevikism which is threatening to disturb the functions of this government. And in the ultimate end it may be found that this stone which "this builder" is attempting to reject and harass, may be called upon to be used as the chief corner stone of the building. The operations and influence of this organization should warrant the attention of the Department of Justice, for it is plainly evident that in these turbulent times no organization should be permitted to become a factor which indicates in its written and spoken language that its purpose is to take the law into its own hands. The name Ku Klux Klan implies disorder, bloodshed, rapine and everything which goes to make up the destruction of the centralization of government.

MISSING IN ACTION.

(Special to The Advertiser.)

TROY, ALA., Oct. 15.—Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Townsend have received a telegram from Acting Adjutant General Harris stating that their son, James Bryant Townsend has been missing in action since September 15. He was with the medical corps in the American expeditionary forces in France. He was an auto mechanic before leaving Troy on April 2 as a selectman to Camp Gordon. He remained there about two weeks and was sent to Camp Upton, New York, and sailed shortly afterwards for France. He had been in France for some time. It is hoped by his many friends here that he may soon be restored to his command.

Ku Klux Active.

The awe-inspiring Ku Klux Klan has visited Troy. One night recently they quietly made their appearance on the streets of Troy, coming from where no one knew and after they had paraded the streets of the city, throwing out circulars they as mysteriously disappeared. They rode in automobiles, several to a car. The circulars were warnings to slackers and declared that things must change in Pike county and the quota of bonds must be bought.

Barn Destroyed.

A fire occurred Monday morning about ten o'clock when the large barn owned by F. M. Brown on Brundidge street was burned down. The barn and its contents were quickly enveloped in flames and soon burned down. The quick work of the firemen saved the near-by residences form catching on fire.

KU KLUX KLANSMEN STAGE SILENT PARADE

More Than 100 White-Robed Figures Stalk Through the City

The Montgomery Advertiser 10-13-18

Without blare of trumpets and minus the fiery steed that marked the raids of the Ku Klux Klan of the Reconstruction days in Alabama, the city of Montgomery was visited last night by a Ku Klux Klan that bore all of the ear-marks of the ancient and honorable order that placed white supremacy back in the saddle after a reign of terror for several years by negroes and scalawags.

The parade of more than a hundred white clad men was more like a ghost walk than a demonstration against slackers or non-Liberty Bond buyers. Coming into the business section of the city from the direction of the Capitol the men marched single file as quietly as so many ghosts. At the Square, they marched several times around the fountain and then filed away as silently as they had come.

A large crowd was attracted by the Ku Klux and all remained to see what would be the outcome of the parade. The silent visitors were headed by one man carrying a large banner on which was the Ku Klux motto and insignia. Each man wore the long white robe and cape and on the left breast of his uniform was the Ku Klux insignia. The feature of each man was hidden by a white mask with a red tassle.

In leaving the Square, the large banner lead one crowd back up Dexter while another squad went away by the way of Commerce to Bibb and out Bibb to Madison. Another squad left by the way of Court and Washington. Each leader of the smaller squads carried a small United States flag.

It is said that the Ku Klux Klan which paraded last night is the only authorized organization of its kind in existence, having a charter from the government and the state and that the ceremony of last night is in keeping with the ritual laid down in their incorporation.

KU KLUX KLAN ON GUARD AGAIN IN MONTGOMERY

Purring Auto Takes Place of Prancing Charger — 15 Cars of White Garbed Males Pass Over Streets, Hand Out Warning

The Montgomery Advertiser 10-22-18

The Ku Klux Klan "rode" again in Montgomery Saturday night for the first time in forty-two years. Resurrected, the order appeared on the streets of the city in the old garb, but used the modern convenience of the automobile instead of the dashing horses which David Wark Griffith showed in "The Birth of the nation."

The cars filled with the sheeted figures and black head-dress appeared out of the nowhere and disappeared in the whither. They moved silently through the business district—their progress being interrupted, only now and then by a horn in the long line of automobiles. According to the count of some there were sixteen or eighteen automobiles, each machine carrying from four to five persons; the estimate of the number of riders as they passed through the well lighted streets ran all the way from seventy to a hundred.

No Disorder.

No disorder, and no action of any sort was reported to the police as done by the sheeted figures. The cars from which the numbers had been taken or disguised drove at a fairly slow pace through the business district and then into some of the residential streets. According to a street car motorman, the considerable crowd was seen emerging from Oakwood Cemetery. They were first generally noted as they turned into the head of Dexter avenue near the Capitol. After passing Court Square they were later reported in two or three differents parts of the city, until finally the considerable crowd of silent riders disappeared as quietly as they had appeared.

The appearance of the Ku Klux, or its modern prototype appeared to be connected with the campaign which will be launched next week against slackers, both work and military slackers.

This was indicated by the hand bills which were thrown out during the ride. The hand bills which were freely scattered read:

WARNING.

Work! Fight or Get!!
No Slackers Allowed to Live in Montgomery, We Protect Good Women—Bad ones Must go.
When the Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. Call Be Sure You Answer.
Have you bought your prorata of Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps You can't be a slacker in any way and live happy in Montgomery.
If there is a German spy in Montgomery County he will be properly handled.
This is a warning and final notice. Do your duty.

Huge Crowds On Streets.

The street were greatly crowded with a big Saturday night crowd and as the long procession of cars passed, the strange occupants drew general notice. Montgomery immediately after the war was the home of a ku klux organization, and, after its reappearance Saturday night it is supposed that the order had been revived to assist in handling problems created by the present war.

KUKLUX KLAN REVIVAL.

Littell McClung in Brooklyn Times.

The first "Invisible Empire," which was brought into being by General Forrest after the civil war to offset the evils of carpetbag rule, has been succeeded by a second Invisible Empire. The Kuklux Klan—silent, daring and terrible—is once more organized in many localities of the South. In hundreds of communities its warnings are being posted.

The Montgomery Advertiser 9-27-19.

Not many days since, at Mobile, Ala., the unseen hand of the Kuklux Klan stretched forth. Great shipbuilding yards are already turning out ships there for the Government, and other docks are in process of construction. A double-barreled strike of workers had been arranged—the stevedores at the docks and the washerwoman of the city were to be called out simultaneously by a self-appointed but locally powerful leader.

There was no desire on the part of the workers to quit work. Both stevedores and washerwomen were making good wages and hundreds of them had put savings into Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps. They had contributed to the Red Cross and Y. M. C. A. But the strike was to be called, nevertheless.

Then a rumor spread, from what source is not known, that the man planning the strike was in personal danger. Ostensibly to protect him from what threatened, he was arrested, put into a patrol wagon and was being taken to the police station one night when, as the patrol wagon was rounding a dark corner, it was stopped by a squad of automobiles. Each car was covered with white cloth and each bore the insignia of the Invisible Empire—"the fiery cross of old Scotland." Men leaped out of the cars, each completely disguised under the ghostly garb of the Kuklux Klan. The driver of the patrol wagon saw rifles pointed at him, gave

up his prisoner, and drove back to the police station.

Was the arrest, with the patrol wagon, a part of the Klan's plan for capturing its victim and spiriting him away? Who knows? No strike was called. Just what became of the strike agitator has not been told.

Virtually the same incident, with the patrol wagon left out, has been repeated at Birmingham, Ala. A strike leader appeared in the neighborhood of the great mills in the suburbs of the town. His appearance was the first intimation that any one, even the workers in the mills, had that a strike might take place. Despite the fact that there was no desire on the part of the workers to quit work, this leader laid his plans for a walkout on considerable proportions.

But suddenly the arm of the Invisible Empire was put forth in the darkness. There was no strike. The man has not been heard of since.

The Invisible Empire has caused the information to be circulated that it is, first of all, on the lookout for alien enemies, for the disloyal, and for the fellow who is seeking to begin a strike.

Presumably the anonymous leaders of the Klan make a distinction between the loyal union laborer and the laborer who is infected with the I. W. W. spirit, even though he may not be a member of that organization.

When there is no trouble brewing in labor circles, or among disturbers suspected of being alien enemy sympathizers, the Klan goes after the idlers and slackers. For these the preliminary action is a public warning. It is believed that this warning will be heeded. If not, individual idlers and slackers will be picked out by the Klan and special warnings will be given them. Should these fail in any case, the Klan is prepared to take more drastic action.

In Montgomery the Klan has warned immoral women that they must keep away from the soldiers in Camp Sheridan.

The Invisible Empire apparently has public sentiment behind it, as in the seventies. Its organization is much the same as in the seventies. Wherever it is organized it is made up of some of the best men in the community. Neither strangers nor half-strangers are taken in. The shrewdest detective might find it impossible to penertate into the inner circles of the Empire.

The disguise, as in the old days, is completely effective. The long, white robe hides a man's body as well as his face. Even the horses or automobiles are similarly covered. General Forrest and his associates knew full well the fear of the unseen and the unknown. The founders of the second Invisible Empire are depending again on this fear to make drastic action unnecesary except in special instances. But, in addition to the terror of the unseen in the darkness, the Klan is ready to make every warning good, and it is known to be composed of men who are sworn to do their part fearlessly, whatever consequences may impend.

While many communities in the South are much larger than in the days of the first Empire, there are few so large as to make its operations a failure. It might be impossible for the Klan to do its work in the larger cities of the North, but in Southern cities it has not been thwarted. It is notably active in Mobile, which has now nearly 100,000 population, and Birmingham, with 200,000.

Each community in the South knows whether it is as yet organized into the Invisible Empire. We know of one community that two weks ago had no Klan. Now there is a Klan in the community that two weeks ago had no But no one, except the Klansmen, knows who its members are, and probably no outsider will know until the war is ove

A KUKLUX REVIVAL.

In another column will be found an article showing that the mysterious organization known as the Kuklux Klan is again operating in the South. According to the writer of the article the warnings of the "Invisible Empire" have been posted in hundreds of communities and it is reported especially strong in Alabama. Mobile and Birmingham are cited among the large cities where it has manifested itself by striking terror into the community.

Ostensibly the organization is now engaged in seeking out alien enemies, those who are disloyal and those labor leaders who are instigating strikes among the workers. But there is every reason to believe that, as in the days of Reconstruction, this lawless band of midnight marauders, has as its immediate object the further oppression and subjection of the Negro population of the South. The enforcement of Negro labor to a condition of peonage may be expected from this organization, if it is allowed to continue its lawless course of violence and terrorization.

The report of the revival of the dreaded Kuklux Klan should receive the attention of the Department of Justice at once. If allowed to inaugurate another reign of terror in the South, untold damage may be done to the business and industries of that section, to say nothing of the widespread demoralization bound to be spread among the Negro population.

The Negro of the South has constituted the most loyal portion of its population in the support of the war. He has furnished the largest number of volunteers to the army, a large proportion of the drafted men and has contributed liberally in proportion to his means to the purchase of Liberty Bonds and War Savings Stamps. He constitutes the backbone of Southern labor. It is certainly no more than just that he should be protected from the machinations of designing and unscrupuous oppressors, working under the cover of darkness and the gruesome attributes of the Kuklux Klan. The Government should repress the lawless activities of the Kuklux Klan at once.

MASKED TROOPS SCARE NEGROES

BROOKLYN N Y CITIZEN
OCTOBER 20. 1918

1,500 Colored Draftees Through Ku-Klux-Klan Were After Them.

CAMP WHEELER, Macon, Ga., Oct. 19.—Thinking that soldier guards pacing the station platform, wearing "flu" masks were a reception committee of the Ku-Klux-Klan, 1,500 negro selectmen were given the fright of their lives when they arrived here.

"Ku-Kluxes!" yelled the first negro as he landed on the station platform and stared into the gauze-masked face of a sentry. Fifteen hundred negroes the made a scramble for cover. Car seats were upturned and prayers were said in countless numbers. It was every man for himself.

It took the military authorities some time to convince the negroes that the masks were intended to protect their lives. Some had to be dragged from their hiding places before they could be nduced to go on to camp.

Ku-Klux Klan First Notice Is Warning to "Women of the Street"

A notice tacked up on a telegraph pole in the city shows that someone else besides the military authorities are after the women loitering around the streets and hotels. The notice is:

"Notice: Warning! Women of the streets and hotel-strumpets go to work —keep away from soldiers.

"KU KLUX KLAN."

The word 'warning" in the notice seems to mean that the women will be dealt with by the "Ku Klux Klan" if the order is not carried out. Several posters of this description have been posted up in various places, one having been seen giving a warning to the men that hang around pool rooms.

THE NEW KU KLUX KLAN.

A new Ku Klux Klan movement is on in the South. It is called the Columbian Union. It is a secret organization and was originally chartered in Nashville, Tennessee. Nashville is the city in which the Law and Order League was formed among the white citizens to fight lynching.

One of the organizers recently went to Chattanooga to set up a branch, and, in stating the purposes of the order, said that racial troubles were anticipated following the demobilization of the soldiers; he was outspoken in expressing his belief that an organization will be necessary, especially in the South, when the Negro troops are mustered out and returned to their homes.

Here we have a plain statement that the main purpose of the new, secret order is to keep the returned Negro soldiers "in their place." Membership, of course, is limited to white men.

The Chattanooga Daily Times came out in one of the strongest editorials we have ever seen in any Southern newspaper, or Northern one, for that matter, condemning the whole movement. In commenting on the statement that Gov. Rye and Gov-elect Roberts were members of the organiaztion, it said:

"If these gentlemen, under their oath of office and backed by the power and authority of the law and its sworn defenders and executors, can't maintain order and protect the lives and property—Negroes as well as whites—without the aid of a secret society, they ought to resign their offices and permit men who can do it to fill them."

Further along the Daily Times said in its editorial:

"An organization having for its purpose—open and above board—to guarantee to the Negro his rights and asure him fair treatment would accomplish more for order and the peaceable disposition of the Negro than all the oppressive and threatening societies that folly and prejudice could conceive of."

The last paragraph quoted above goes to the heart of the whole matter. It is the position that the South will have to arrive at sooner or later, and the sooner the better.

Ku Klux Klan – 1918

Federal Investigations.

WHY DID CONGRESS FAIL TO SUPPRESS KU KLUX?

Chicago Defender 1/14/22

H. P. Fry, Former Kleagle of Order, Says the System Should Be Destroyed by Law—Menace Not Yet Checked

Henry P. Fry of Tennessee became a member of the Ku Klux Klan and was appointed a Kleagle or field organizer, in which capacity he worked for several weeks until a close study of the "Invisible Empire" convinced him that the organization, with its absolute secrecy and its appeals to class hatred, was a national menace, when he resigned from the organization, repudiated its obligation and aided the New York World in making a complete exposure of the entire movement. In a series of five articles Mr. Fry now calls attention to much-needed legislation which he believes necessary in order to stamp out the perils of Ku Kluxism.

By HENRY P. FRY

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ARTICLE I

IN VIEW of the recent "dog fights" that have taken place within the ranks of the Ku Klux Klan, the public may have conceived the mistaken idea that the organization has become disrupted and destroyed. The protest within the ranks of the "Invisible Empire" against the retention of "Emperor" Simmons, of E. Y. Clarke and Mrs. Elizabeth Tyler, whose relationship was proved by the World to have been a national scandal, resulted in the dismissal by Clarke of four prominent Grand Goblins and in various legal actions on the part of those individuals. This internal discord merely means, however, a desire on the part of Klansmen for a change of leadership.

The evil system, with its secret membership, its masked and hooded regulators of the peace, continues and must be destroyed root and branch by Congress and the state legislatures.

Ku Kluxism plans to stage a decided comeback, and if necessary will do so under a new name, and in the disguise of a new order; but it will be the same individuals, the same rotten system, seeking to build a secret political empire of poisonous racial and religious hatred. A bad egg by any other name emits the same unsavory odor.

Many persons who were deeply interested in the exposure of the system foolishly imagine that adverse publicity has killed the Klan, but this is so far from the truth that people would be generally alarmed if they realized that the fanatical Klansmen are preparing to "stage a grand comeback."

In performing what is believed to be a public service, the New York World, with my co-operation, undertook the investigation and exposure of the "Ku Klux Klan," printing a series of 21 articles covering every phase of the "Invisible Empire" of religious and racial hatred and completely sustaining the attitude I took when withdrawing from the organization, that "there is no room in America for a secret movement possessing its nefarious possibilities."

The World, by means of its great facilities for conducting such an investigation, thoroughly covered the entire United States and presented a most convincing case, arousing the country to the dangers of Ku Kluxism as it has been aroused to no other danger by a newspaper exposé in many years. With remarkable unanimity the leading secular and religious papers of the country endorsed the exposure and condemned the individuals who were responsible for the Ku Klux propaganda.

Having, therefore, called to the attention of the American people the dangerous possibilities of Ku Kluxism, and having thrown the white light of publicity upon the entire structure and organization, the duty of the World and its associated papers very properly ended. The "Invisible Empire" had been made visible.

Some Action Still Necessary

A second phase, however, now presents itself for public consideration which I purpose discussing in this series of articles, a phase which follows logically as a supplement to the exposure previously published. This phase of the question will deal with various remedies, both state and federal, which, if considered and acted upon by Congress and the state legislatures (many of which will shortly assemble), will prevent any danger in future from the Ku Klux Klan or any association of individuals organized along similar lines. That some legislation is vitally necessary should be obvious to any reader who has read the details of the Simmons scheme.

A brief summary of the salient facts brought out by the World discloses that, while organized ostensibly as a fraternal and benevolent corporation, without profit, the Ku Klux Klan actually has been a source of considerable profit to a favored few and an excellent means of livelihood to hundreds of Grand Goblins, King Kleagles and Kleagles, as the Ku Klux officials are known; whose activities in peddling religious and racial prejudice have covered the entire United States.

It has been proved that funds of the organization were diverted for the purchase of a $25,000 home for "Emperor" Simmons; that $24,000 of Klan funds was invested in Lanier University, providing a place as president of the institution for Simmons; that Simmons is being paid $12,000 a year as head of the Ku Klux, holding his position for life; that big money has been made from the sale of robes at $6.50, and that out of every ten dollars only $2 goes into the imperial treasury, $8 finding its way into the pockets of professional organizers headed by E. Y. Clarke and Mrs. Elizabeth Tyler. The latter frankly admitted to a United States postoffice inspector that she was engaged in the work strictly as a "business proposition."

Outrages Traced to Klan

In addition to this sordid commercialism, it has been shown by documentary evidence that the paid peddlers of prejudice have propagated the "Invisible Empire" by appeals to hatred of Jews, Catholics and Negroes; that they have attempted in numerous instances, proved by documents, to enroll governors of states, members of Congress, judges and members of the law-enforcing arms of state and federal governments, and that in some instances acts of violence were traceable to members of the organization, while a vast number of masked outrages, following the establishment of Klans, were committed by people wearing disguises convincingly similar to the Ku Klux robes.

Aside from its commercial features, its spread of religious and racial hatred and its general structure and composition, there are two strikingly important facts about the Ku Klux Klan which brand it as a menace to American institutions and which should be handled concurrently by federal and state legislation. These facts are:

First—Its membership is absolutely secret.

Second—It either permits its members to go abroad in disguise, or by its existence it encourages others to go abroad in disguise for the purpose of intimidating the public.

If one should cast aside every other feature of Ku Kluxism these two things remain and should compel the attention of all serious men and women in the country, because they contain possibilities of evil that are possessed by no other organization in the United States. If suitable legislation is enacted preventing forever the operation of societies which refuse to divulge the names of their members and prohibiting persons from going about in disguise and terrorizing communities, then considerable headway will be made in the way of removing the teeth from the present Ku Klux Klan and from future movements of the same character.

Restrictive Legislation Necessary

On the other hand, if there be no federal or state legislation, the recent exposure of the "Invisible Empire" of Ku Kluxism will inevitably have the effect of advertising the scheme, and eventually making it one of the strongest, most insidious and most dangerous systems that ever came into existence in America. Unless Congress and the states put a curb upon the activities of the Ku Klux Klan the time will come when the organization, through its secret methods, will control a considerable portion of the governmental agencies of the entire country.

Congress is now in session and should be urged to pass legislation that will destroy Ku Kluxism as a national menace. In a short time the legislatures of a number of states will convene and an opportunity will be afforded to secure the enactment of laws so framed as to meet most effectively the situation. The vital question in dealing with the problem of Ku Kluxism is: What legislation will most effectively curb the system and prevent its dangerous potentialities from becoming dire actualities?

ARTICLE II

Tennessee Klan Card Indexes Every Resident of City and Holds Jew, Catholic and Race in Subjection

WHEN an individual becomes a "naturalized citizen" of the "Invisible Empire," Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, he is strictly enjoined to maintain the most rigid secrecy as to his "citizenship," and is cautioned that under no circumstances must he admit the fact, even to members of his family, intimate friends or closest business associates. The general practice, as I have seen it, upon receiving "aliens" into "citizenship" is to admonish them as follows:

"This organization is being perfected clandestinely, and it will be able to accomplish its mission only by preserving absolute secrecy. You are permitted to tell no person in the world that you are a member, not even your own wife. If anybody asks you pointedly if you are a member, deny it. Even if you are called into court and asked under oath if you belong to the organization you should not commit yourself. If you ask an 'alien' for his application, and if he should inquire of you if you are a 'citizen' of the 'Invisible Empire,' tell him that you are not, but you may state that you have either made an application or intend doing so."

More Than 1,000 Klans Now

The result of this system is that there are over 1,000 units or Klans of the "Invisible Empire" scattered over the United States, composed of secret members, each of whom is sworn to obey implicitly all the orders of "Emperor" William J. Simmons, and "to use any and all justifiable means and methods" to enforce the principles of "white supremacy," "separation of church and state" and other Ku Klux ideas and doctrines "against any person or persons, political party" or other agency in the whole world. No person except the "naturalized citizen" of this "Invisible Empire" knows who belongs, and it is the boast of some Klans that they are composed of "eyes that see everything and ears that hear everything."

The outsider, especially the Jew, the Catholic and the Negro, does not know who may be a Klansman. Perhaps the man who works alongside of one in an office, the clerk at one's hotel—careful scrutinizer of mail and telephone calls—the clerk at the bank, familiar with one's bank account, and the confidential secretary of a business man are Klansmen, secretly spying and lying for the benefit of the "Invisible Empire."

In one town in Tennessee that came under my notice while working in the Ku Klux propagation department the "citizenship" of the local Klan included the mayor, the chief of police, the city manager, all the members of the police force, the presidents of the two local banks, the postmaster, the manager of the telephone company, most of the important operatives of the railroad passing through the town and

a selected group of business and professional men, who, with the others above mentioned, entirely ran the community.

No outsider, particularly a Catholic or a Jew, would have the slightest chance in the world to compete against such a system.

It was planned by this particular **Klan to keep a card index of every person in the place, showing his business connections, habits, morals, religion, politics and all available information as to his private affairs. I have no doubt that the development of the same system is now under way by these self-constituted regulators of the public peace and morals in a thousand other American communities. If this plan is allowed to be perfected there will gradually evolve a regime more arbitrary than the secret police organization which formerly held sway in Russia.**

Secrecy a Genuine Danger

Such absolute secrecy on the part of an organization, whose oath and ritual show it to be political, and whose constitution declares it to be "military in its nature," constitutes a real danger to Americanism that should be legally suppressed. The light of publicity should be turned upon the membership list of any and every secret organization in the country. The American people are entitled to know the names of those in their respective communities who belong to an organization which is too sneaking and too cowardly to publish its membership roster.

No reputable organization, fraternal or otherwise, can have the slightest objection to making public the names of the individuals who belong to it, and no such organization can be injured in the least degree by the publication of its list of members. I am a member of the Masonic fraternity and the Knights of Pythias, and both of the lodges of these orders to which I belong print annual rosters of membership. I am quite sure that during a membership of nearly 20 years in these orders I have never discovered a man who was ashamed of his membership, who was cowardly enough to deny his membership, or who felt called upon to tell a lie about it.

There is a very simple remedy for this cardinal menace of Ku Kluxism, which can be applied by the Congress of the United States, a remedy which will put an effective quietus upon all societies that seek to thrive and flourish in the dark, and whose members dare not admit they belong to them. Congress should enact legislation to the effect that all secret societies, fraternities or organizations which are engaged in interstate commerce or which make use of the United States mails should be compelled to file with the Postoffice Department, at stated intervals, copies of the membership rosters of each unit of the organization, one copy to be retained and kept on file for public inspection by the local postmaster and the other copy sent to the Postoffice Department in Washington. Penalties for non-compliance with the law should be enacted, denying the use of the mails to any organization failing to file its reports.

Legitimate Orders Unaffected

Such a law would have little or no effect upon the legitimate, standard fraternal orders of the United States. The Masons, Odd Fellows, Elks, Knights of Columbus and others already have annual rosters, and there would be but little hardship imposed upon the secretaries of the various units of these orders in complying with the law. The sneaking, lying, underhand movement or society would, however, be struck a fatal blow that would render its field of activity very limited. Such a wholesome law would force the "citizens of the Invisible Empire" to admit they were "citizens" and compel them to stand up and make public acknowledgment of the fact. The publicly displayed membership roster would also be exceedingly valuable for the use of grand juries in the event that a community became the victim of a masked outrage. If it were suspected that the outrage was the work of the Ku Klux Klan the members could be subpenaed and questioned by the grand jury. Should it develop that the crime was not committed by Klansmen the public roster would be a benefit to the organization in clearing its skirts.

Congress might also look into the matter of placing responsibility for criminal acts committed by local Klans in violation of the Constitution of the United States upon the national governing body and the national officers of the organization. In every case where masked outrages have been committed—some of them trace to Klans—the "Emperor" of the "Invisible Empire" has repeatedly sidestepped responsibility. Again, such legislation would not affect the regular fraternal orders, as one never hears of the Masons, Knights of Columbus or Knights of Pythias indulging in tar and feather parties, whippings, masked parades or public intimidations.

By a few simple legislative acts Congress can very effectively check the dangerous possibilities of Ku **Kluxism and pave the way for concurrent action on the part of the various states.**

Some of the needs for state legislation will be discussed in the next article.

ARTICLE III

Legislation That Will Make Secret Order Powerless for Harm Suggested by Former Organizer

ALTHOUGH all the states in the American union have on their statute books adequate laws regulating and governing domestic and foreign business corporations, it appears, upon examination, that few if any states have gone very thoroughly into the matter of protecting their citizens from foreign corporations organized for purposes other than for profit.

Each state has a general law providing for the organization of fraternal, benevolent and membership corporations, which law defines the extent and scope of such bodies, but there is a great laxity with respect to similar corporations organized in other states.

As a general proposition, a group of individuals can procure a charter from one state, the matter being practically one of mere formality, and upon the legal status conferred by this charter proceed to do business without being hampered by legal authorities.

The Ku Klux Klan affords an interesting illustration of the laxity of state laws in the case of non-business corporations. In 1915 there was incorporated under the laws of the state of Georgia an organization which called itself the "Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, Inc.," purporting to be a fraternal, benevolent and eleemosynary association not organized for profit.

Operates Widely Under Charter

A careful reading of the certificate of incorporation fails to reveal any mention of the words "Invisible Empire" or the title "Emperor" for its head. Armed with this Georgia charter, William J. Simmons, the promoter of the scheme, proceeded to institute units or Klans in nearly every state in the union, under the name of the "Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan," with himself as a self-constituted "Emperor," and now has, according to statements which appear to be authentic, over 1,000 local Klans, covering nearly every state in the United States. So far as has been recorded in the newspapers, in only one state, Indiana, has the organization registered its charter as a foreign corporation and been accorded a strictly legal status. It is unlikely, however, that such action would be necessary, so lax are state corporation laws in this respect.

The question therefore arises: Why should not the people of a state be afforded the same proper safeguards against foreign non-business corporations as are afforded against the foreign business corporation? Most states have "blue sky laws," which protect investors from falling victims to grafters who attempt to float fraudulent stock-selling enterprises. Why should they not exercise a close scrutiny over all corporations purporting to be fraternal or benevolent, and reserve for themselves the right to refuse admission to questionable organizations and to exact—on the part of foreign corporations—stringent requirements before permitting them to operate in the states?

It seems to me that every state in the United States should amend its corporation laws in this respect so that all organizations, societies and associations possessing no capital stock should be subjected to the most rigid investigation before being allowed to exercise any functions within the confines of a state, and should be placed at all times on their good behavior as a consideration for being allowed to continue such operations.

Should File Sworn Statements

Without attempting the task of framing legislation on the subject, there are a few factors which suggest themselves and which should be considered by the states. In the first place, no corporation organized for other than business purposes should be allowed to function within the borders of another state unless and until it filed with the secretary of state or other proper official of that state a complete sworn statement of all its important features, including its charter of incorporation; its constitution and laws; a list of its national officers and members of its governing body; a sworn statement of its numerical strength; the states in which it is operating; full details of its intentions; complete information as to its propagation; the amount of **commissions to be paid its agents; the initiation fees or "donations" it expects to exact from members, and such other data as may be required by the secretary of state or proper official having in charge the supervision of such corporations.**

The legislation should provide a strong penalty for such organizations as attempt to establish branches and enroll memberships without first having complied with the law; should provide that all agents canvassing for members be registered and licensed, with penalty for non-compliance with this provision; and should contain very positive and specific provisions enabling the state to oust the organization from its territory in the event that any of its local units become involved in any acts of lawlessness, especially in the way of public intimidation or attempted private regulation of the public peace. Also, in drafting such a bill, there should be included a provision fixing upon the national officers of the organization a definite responsibility for lawless acts committed by subordinate branches and subjecting these officials in such cases to indictment and trial.

Concurrently with congressional legislation previously discussed, each state should also require all fraternal, secret, benevolent or non-profit associations to file at stated intervals sworn lists of membership of each unit or branch, one copy to be filed with the county clerk of the county in which such unit is located and another copy with the secretary of state or other official, these copies being at all times open for public inspection. Failure of such organization to comply with the law should be the basis of an action brought by the attorney general of the state for the purpose of revoking the authority of the organization, and in case of non-compliance by a foreign corporation **should be ground for ejecting it from the state and prohibiting its further activities.**

Could Hold Lawlss In Chck

Corporation laws such as have been briefly set forth would prove valuable safeguards against the operation of so-called fraternal organizations which now possess the indiscriminate right to invade a state, collect large sums of money from its citizens, build up political machines, perfect dangerous and ultra-secret combinations, and under the false pretense of forming a fraternal association in reality develop secret vigilance committees assuming the right, in direct contravention of the bill of rights of federal and state constitutions, to regulate the morals of communities, appropriating to themselves the functions of judge, jury, prosecuting attorney and executioner.

In discussing the subject of state supervision and control of foreign membership corporations, I have not touched upon the important matter of restraining any organization from going abroad disguised and under the protection of masks and robes terrorizing and intimidating the public. This heinous and cowardly practice has ever been the chief bulwark of Ku Kluxism, not only enabling members of an organization freely to perpetrate outrages, but also suggesting to all persons similarly minded the ease with which crime can be committed with impunity by disguised individuals.

The state of Tennessee has an excellent law prohibiting people from going abroad in disguise,, and in the next article this law will be quoted with suggestions for its enactment by other states.

PROPAGANDA

CALLS KU KLUX KLAN PRACTICALLY BANKRUPT

Atlanta Leader Makes Statement in Affidavit Attacking Kleagle Clarke

Atlanta, Dec. 30.—The Ku Klux Klan is practically bankrupt, according to an affidavit made public by Z. R. Upchurch, one of the leaders of the Atlanta Klan, who is fighting to depose Edward Young Clarke, Imperial Kleagle, and his associate in business, Mrs. Elizabeth Tyler. The affidavit says that the Klan now faces payment of large obligations with a depleted treasury; that it does not hold clear title to any of the real estate it has purchased, and that it has been trying to sell certificates of indebtedness to individual Klansmen in the hope of obtaining necessary funds to tide it over the emergency.

Upchurch, who for several years was associated with Clarke in a business way, makes unprintable charges concerning the past life of Mrs. Tyler and Clarke, backed up by allegations of immoral conduct between them, giving his own personal observations of conditions existing at 185 South Pryor street, where they were arrested together in October, 1919, and fined for disorderly conduct.

He also charges that Clarke has defrauded charitable and religious organizations of thousands of dollars when conducting money raising campaigns for them, and that he continued this practice in his conduct of the propaganda of the klan. He says that he recommended Clarke to Colonel Simmons, Imperial Wizard, not knowing at that time of his "utter baseness."

Upchurch says that when Colonel Simmons became aware of the South Pryor street incident he was greatly shocked and said that Clarke and Mrs. Tyler must get out at once, and offered to him (Upchurch) the post held by Clarke, but that Upchurch was forced by lack of funds to refuse it, and the order was forced for the same reason to retain Clarke.

The above news dispatch, coming from Atlanta, Ga., and printed in papers throughout the country, is regarded as a clever piece of propaganda on the part of the publicity bureau of the Ku Klux Klan. Henry P. Fry, former Kleagle, who gave Defender readers a "peep behind the mask," **declares that the internal "dog fights" merely conceal Klan's secret intentions to stage a comeback.**